

# THE JOURNAL



OF THE

## PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Number 19

April 1989

### CONTENTS

Calendar of Coming Events . . . . .	2
Message from the President . . . . .	3
A New Face on Mexican Coins . . . . .	4
The Bookworm . . . . .	6
Coins of the Roman Procurators in Judaea . . . . .	7
The Syngraphics Scene . . . . .	13
Coins: The Mirror of Life . . . . .	14
1989 P.C.N.S. Literary Competition . . . . .	16
From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston . . . . .	18
Treating an Addiction . . . . .	20
The Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics . . . . .	22
San Francisco Through Its Tokens . . . . .	23

# PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Founded 1915

---

610 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

## OFFICERS:

President	David W. Lange
Vice President	Herb Miles
Treasurer	Don T. Thrall
Secretary	Frank J. Strazzarino
Governor	David F. Cieniewicz
Governor	Paul D. Holtzman
Governor	Mark W. Clark
Governor	Rick Webster

## JOURNAL STAFF:

Editors	David F. Cieniewicz Rebecca A. Cieniewicz P.O. Box 2698 Redwood City, CA 94064
Publisher	Paul D. Holtzman
Typesetter	Stephen M. Huston

---

**The Journal** is a quarterly publication of the *Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*. Annual subscription including P.C.N.S. membership is \$7.50. PCNS encourages the reprinting of articles from **The Journal**. Permission may be obtained from the editors. © 1988, *Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*

## P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 26, 1989, Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

### ***U.S. Fractional Currency***

**Speaker: Don T. Thrall**

May 31, 1989, Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

### ***California Fractional Gold***

**Speaker: Tom Kelly**

June 24, 1989, Saturday at 7:00 pm:

### ***P.C.N.S. 74th Anniversary Banquet***

New San Remo Restaurant, 2237 Mason Street, San Francisco

---

Monthly meetings are held at The Telephone Museum  
1145 Larkin Street at Bush in San Francisco. Guests are invited.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by David W. Lange



Having recently returned from the American Numismatic Association Midwinter Convention in Colorado Springs, I'd like to share a few observations. My overall impression was that this was not really an ANA convention—or, at least, it was not the equal of the traditional summer conventions.

The bourse was relatively small, somewhere in the area of 150 dealers. More critical to the overall atmosphere was the lack of heavy hitters, the big boys. The floor was made up primarily of the workaday businessmen who form the bulk of the trade. While as a collector I stood to benefit from this, it

did tend to dispell the illusion of empire that prevails at the summer conventions.

The auction was unmemorable. I was outbid on the few lots that I sought, but many items seemed to sell at prices that would not stir much excitement. Attendance at the two sessions that I participated in was modest, and the room was orderly and businesslike. Again, the big boys weren't there. All of this was somewhat compensated for by the beauty of the ballroom in which the auction was held. The Broadmoor is a splendid hotel and viewing it was one of the highlights of the weekend.

What was really missing for me, however, were the meetings of various specialty clubs. Friendships are always renewed at the gatherings of the Numismatic Literary Guild, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, and other such groups to which I belong. Only a few club meetings were held, and none of these applied to my areas of interest. In fact, aside from my roommates, fellow PCNSers Dave Cieniewicz and Peter Crane, and the ANA staff, I saw very few people that I know. The show was well attended, but the crowds seemed to be mostly local collectors.

All in all, the convention was still an enjoyable experience. I have found that there is no such thing as a bad trip to Colorado. The rumor is that next year's Midwinter Convention will be held in San Diego, with a return to Colorado Springs in 1991.

While I'm tossing rumors about, it looks as though there are more changes in store for The Numismatist beginning in January. Another expansion in size to 8-1/2" x 11", projected newsstand sales, and four-color covers are in the offing.



# A NEW FACE ON MEXICAN COINS

by Roger W. Langton

Several years ago when I first decided to specialize in Mexican coins, I visited a well-known dealer in Mexican numismatics. Anxious to learn as much from him as possible, I began to bombard him with questions. He was well informed when it came to price and rarity but was sadly lacking in his knowledge of the coins' historical significance. In fact, he was unable to identify the portraits on the coins of modern Mexico. To him the coins were only commodities to be bought and sold. Right there I decided that I would not fall into this way of thinking and began to read as much as possible about Mexican history. This study has made Mexican coins more meaningful to me.

It is always interesting when a new face appears on a Mexican coin or bank note. Such an event occurred in 1981 when the 1,000-peso note featured the portrait of Juana de Asbaje. In 1988, the new 1,000-peso coin showed the same portrait. Not being familiar with this woman, I reached for the history books to see what I could find. I discovered a fascinating biography and came to realize why she was honored.



Space does not permit a long discussion of her achievements, but a few points can be made. She was born in 1651, the illegitimate daughter of Isabel Ramirez and Pedro Manuel de Asbaje. She grew to be a beautiful young woman, highly intelligent and filled with a desire for learning. At age sixteen she became part of the viceregal court in Mexico City and protégée for the Vicereine. She was well regarded for her charming qualities and soon became one of the court's favorites.

For reasons not fully known, at age 20 she entered a convent and became a nun. It has been speculated that she did so because her illegitimate birth did not allow her to make a suitable marriage. However, she did not disappear from the world. She turned her room at the convent into a literary and intellectual salon, amassing a magnificent library where she read and wrote. She



became known as one of the best poets in the Hispanic world. At age 44 she suddenly surrendered her books and gave up her literary pursuits. She died two years later in 1697. Her death was attributed to a disease she caught while administering to the sick.



Sor (Sister) Juana's work was neglected until this century when her complete works were again published. The recent book Sor Juana by Octavio Paz (1988) has further stimulated interest in this remarkable woman. Fortunately, a portrait by Miguel Cabrera has survived and so the image of Juana de Asbaje can be reproduced on the coins and notes of Mexico.

I encourage all collectors to look into the history of the countries from which they collect. Such study is sure to bring more life and enjoyment to their numismatic collections.

*Roger and his wife Della own Mexican Arts in Sunnyvale, Calif. They can be reached by mail at 663 S. Bernardo Ave., Suite 112, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. They issue regular price lists specializing in Mexican coins and numismatic books.*



**August 14, 1937 – Only 6 or 7 specimens  
of the 1918/17-S quarter are known to collectors.**

**- New York Times**



# THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

## Specialty Publications

One of the most notable trends in numismatics during the past two decades has been the proliferation of specialist organizations, each having its own periodical. This trend has accelerated in the 1980s with almost every aspect of United States coinage now being put under the microscope. Two areas that have previously been neglected are now the focus of new clubs: The Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics (SPPN) and the Barber Coin Collectors Society (BCCS).

Publishing The Brasher Bulletin, the SPPN delves into the coinage of the Bechtlers and Templeton Reid, the California Gold Rush, the Colorado Gold Rush, and the California fractional gold of 1852-82. Various novelty and souvenir coinages are also of interest to the readers of The Brasher Bulletin. Western scrip will round out the coverage. Now in its second issue, it features a large quarto (12") format, heavy card covers, and adequate printing and illustrations. Regular membership in the SPPN is priced at \$15 which includes a one-time initiation fee. Address all inquiries to SPPN, Box 4423, Davis, CA 95617-4423.

The newest entry in the publishing field is the Journal of the Barber Coin Collectors Society. This newsletter is photocopied and features paper covers in an octavo (9") format. In its first issue, illustrations have been limited to the cover. The Journal was premiered at the recent ANA Midwinter Convention in Colorado Springs and is something of an experiment. It is hoped that enough persons will respond to go on producing the publication on a quarterly basis. Its simplicity can thus be forgiven, as it appears that the publisher must have produced this first issue at his own expense.

The BCCS is seeking new members. Dues are set at \$8 per year. Barber coinage is a much-neglected area and one worthy of the collector's interest. Write to BCCS, Box 5353, Akron, OH 44313.

**June 1937 - *A Humbert octagonal \$50 gold slug  
sold at auction for \$205.***



# COINS OF THE ROMAN PROCURATORS IN JUDAEA

by Eric Kondratieff

The procurators of Roman Judaea were, as a group, a rather nefarious lot, famous more for their insults and atrocities against the Jews than for any acts of munificence or good government. Some of them stand out, particularly Pilate, Felix, Festus, and Florus, immortalized in the Bible and countless epic movies. Some of the most interesting monuments left behind by these men are the vast quantities of small bronze coins issued under their authority. Known as prutahs, lepta, or widow's mites, these coins yield some fascinating clues to the political climate then and to the personalities of the procurators themselves.

Before the Roman procurators arrived on the scene, Judaea was governed by Herod Archelaus (4 BCE-6 CE), the son and successor of Herod the Great. Augustus did not grant Archelaus the title of king, but instead named him ethnarch. This position corresponded somewhat to Augustus' position as princeps, or first citizen of Rome (and thus the Empire) except that the ethnarch was first among his own people—a superior sort of prince. This also allowed room for Archelaus' future promotion to the kingship with the rights and privileges of his father. However, Archelaus behaved so viciously that Augustus was forced to depose him. Augustus then brought Judaea into full control of the imperial administrative system by annexing it to Syria and placing it under the direct control of a procurator.

The procurators were usually men of equestrian rank, unlike the governors of Syria who were senators or others of the aristocratic classes. They governed from the coastal city of Caesarea Maritima, visiting Jerusalem only for the festivals. Except for the reign of King Herod Agrippa I, who ruled Judaea from 41 to 44 CE, they ruled continuously from 6 to 66 CE, the commencement of the first Jewish revolt (66-70 CE).

The first procurator was Coponius (6-9 CE). He was a tough man sent to govern a difficult province. Nevertheless, he seemed so mild and even-handed after the cruel Herod Archelaus that the Jews named a temple gate after him, an honor unique for a gentile. He set a pattern in his coinage that was to be followed for at least nine years until the death of Augustus. The reverse of his coins had a palm tree and the year of Augustus' reign, generally believed to be dated from the battle of Actium in 31 BCE. These dates were in Greek, Λ (for *etos* meaning year) and ΛϚ (*lambda vau*, the numeral for 36), corresponding to the year 6 CE. The obverse had a barley ear, probably signifying Judaea's importance as the bread

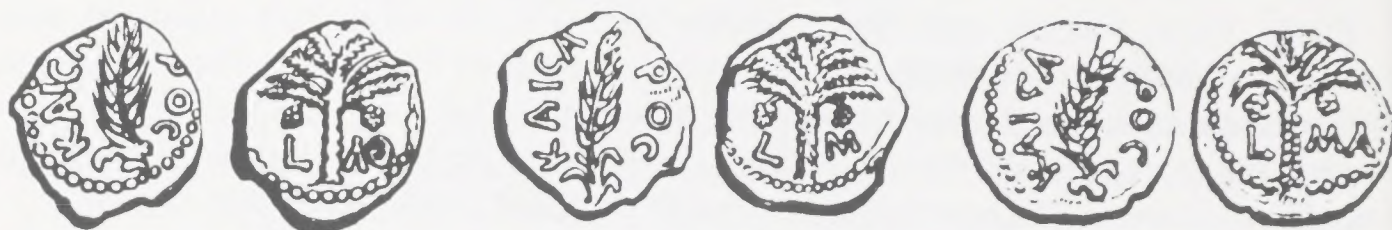


*Herodias 100*



basket of the East, and the Greek inscription KAICOPOC (Caesar). These types were not only inoffensive, but they actually did a certain honor to the Jewish homeland. Apparently Coponius only minted coins for one year (Hendin 100).

Marcus Ambibulus succeeded to the procuratorship in 9 CE. Not much is known about his period in office, but he seems to have maintained the status quo, issuing the same coin-types, the only variation being the dates (years 39-41, or 9-11 CE) and some slight style differences (Hendin 101-103).



*Hendin 101-103*

Annius Rufus was next in line, another quiet and efficient administrator about whom little is known. It is apparent from the present dating of the coins that Rufus did not issue any coins at all. He stayed at his post through the end of Augustus' reign, being relieved by Valerius Gratus a few months into the reign of Tiberius in 15 CE. The coming of the Tiberian procurators was to prove more stressful on Judaeo-Roman relations and more interesting numismatically.

Under Tiberius there were fewer changes in procurators than before. In fact, except for the few months that Annus Rufus' tenure overlapped from Augustus' to Tiberius' reign, there were really only two procurators, Valerius Gratus (15-26 CE) and Pontius Pilate (26-36 CE). This was due to Tiberius' philosophy on provincial administration: he liked his governors to stay at their posts for a long time, comparing them to flies that suck their fill at a wound and linger there, keeping other flies with fresh appetites away (Josephus, *Antiquities*, XVIII.vi.5).

L. Aelius Sejanus, the infamous partner of Tiberius' labors, nominated Gratus to the procuratorship of Judaea where he arrived early in 15 CE. Upon his arrival, Gratus started a new issue of small bronzes quite different from those under the Augustan procurators. They were remarkable in that many carried the name of Julia Augusta, the emperor's mother.

Livia Drusilla, the wife of Augustus and mother of Tiberius, had been adopted into the Julian family by Augustus' bequest in his final will and testament. Her new official name was Julia Augusta. The coins of Gratus that carried her name (IOVΛIA for *Julia*) made no mention of Tiberius except his current regnal year on the opposite side (Hendin 105, 107, 108).



*Hendin 105, 107, 108*



True, Gratus did issue coins concurrently for Tiberius (Hendin 104, 106, 109), but coins dedicated solely to honoring his mother give a fair indication of her power and influence immediately after the death of Augustus. In fact, senatorial decrees of the time addressed the emperor as the son of Julia Augusta, which never ceased to rankle Tiberius.



*Hendin 104, 106, 109*

These concurrent issues went on until the end of year 4 (18 CE). Tiberius had repeatedly made it known that only reasonable honors should be given to women, vetoing, for instance, a senatorial proposal that the month of October be renamed Livius in his mother's honor (Suetonius, Tib.28). Thus, Gratus may have thought it prudent to diminish the prominence of Julia Augusta's name on the coins. He issued new coin types with Tiberius' name on the obverse and Julia's on the reverse, accompanied by the regnal date. These were issued intermittently (year 4, 5, and 11), until Gratus was replaced by Pilate (Hendin 110-112).



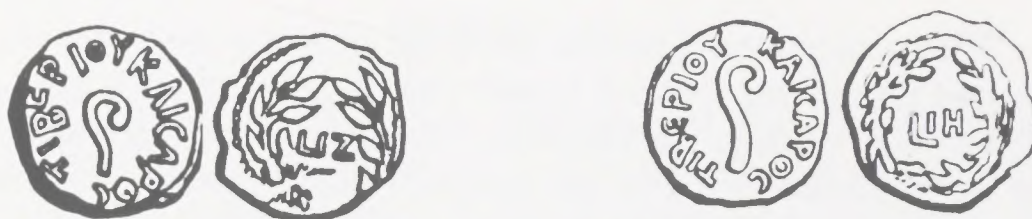
*Hendin 110-112*

Pontius Pilate arrived in 26 CE and did not waste much time in committing insults and crimes against the Jews. He offended the Jews not only by bringing legionary eagles into Jerusalem and affixing sacred Roman shields to the governor's palace but also by the symbols on his coins. His first issue in 29-30 CE carried the name of Tiberius on the obverse and a simpulum or sacrificial ladle. This was an obvious reference to Tiberius' position as *pontifex maximus* (chief priest) of the Roman state religion which was abominable to Jewish sensibilities. The reverse was less offensive, bearing Julia Augusta's name, a testimony to her continuing influence, and three barley ears. The barley ears could be taken as a double entendre, a reference not only to the fertility of Judaea but also to the fertility of the empress-dowager, the wife and mother of emperors (Hendin 113). As Tiberius' 87-year-old mother died in this year, it is not surprising that her name does not appear on subsequent issues.

Pilate's later issues are particularly interesting because they are really quite personalized. The lituus, or augur's wand, pictured on coins of the years 17 and 18 (30-32 CE) may have been placed there not only to mortify the Jews but also to honor Tiberius and Pilate himself. The augurs were the official diviners of signs, portents, and omens of all types, prognosticating good or evil for future



events. No important state or military events commenced until the time was pronounced auspicious. For instance, the announcement of Claudius' death and Nero's elevation to the throne was delayed a whole day until the augurs pronounced the auspices favorable. So prestigious was the lifetime office of augur that patricians and emperors deemed it a privilege to belong to the fifteen-member collegium, marking the honor on their coinage. Before becoming governor of Judaea, Pilate had become an augur, and it is quite possible that his eminence in this field won him the emperor's favor for Tiberius was an ardent believer in augury and astrology. Thus, it may be concluded that the augur's wand appeared on Pilate's later issues as a point of pride in his priesthood (sacerdotium) as well as an unsubtle mockery of Jewish religious sensibilities (Hendin 114-115).



*Hendin 114-115*

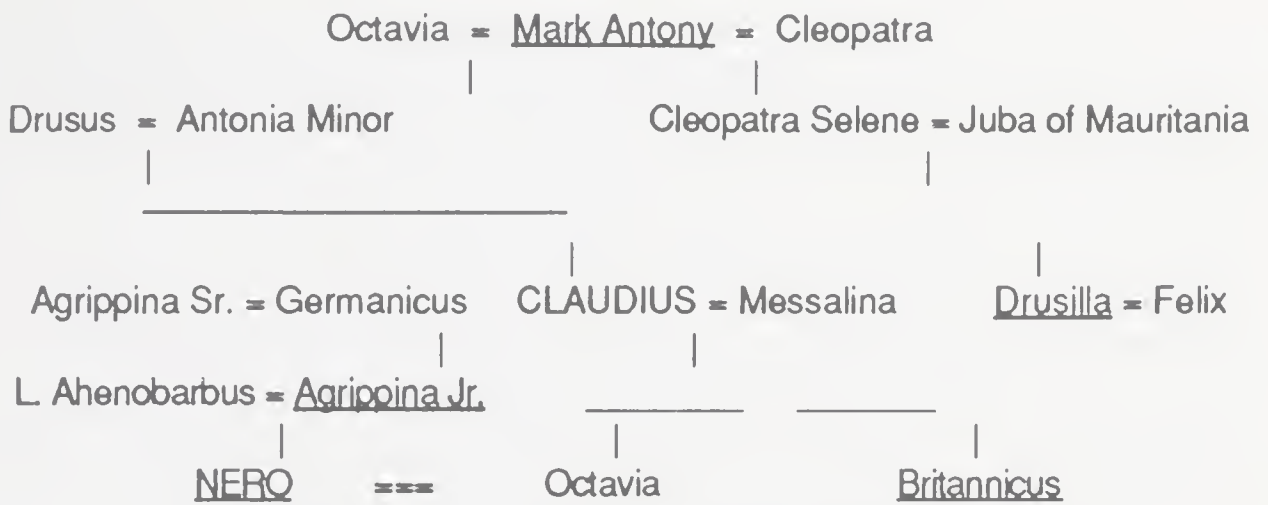
No more coins were issued by Pilate after 32 CE, and in 36 CE, after ten unsuccessful years governing Judaea, Pilate was finally recalled to Rome where he arrived after Tiberius' death, at which point Pilate passed from history into legend.

After Pilate's departure in 36 CE, Judaea was left without a procurator; however, one was soon appointed by the Syrian governor, Vitellius (father of the future emperor by the same name). The procurators under Gaius Caligula who succeeded Tiberius in 37 CE did not issue any coins.

Early in 41 CE, Herod Agrippa aided Claudius in his accession to the imperial throne by acting as an intermediary between him and the senate in the crucial and tumultuous 24-hour period following the murder of Caligula. In gratitude, Claudius ceded to Agrippa's small tetrarchy all of the territories that had belonged to his grandfather, Herod the Great. This included Judaea; thus, the lepta issued at that time proclaimed the kingship of Herod Agrippa rather than the suzerainty of Rome. After Agrippa's death in 44 CE, Judaea reverted to procuratorial rule. However, it was not until the end of Claudius' reign when Antonius Felix (52-59 CE) issued a vast quantity of lepta, the first by a procurator in twenty-two years.

The appointment of the ex-slave Felix may have seemed a downgrading of the procuratorship. However, it was really an upgrading of the post as he had extremely significant political and familial connections. His brother Pallas, also a freedman, was the Emperor Claudius' *praepositus a rationibus* (chief accountant) and was allied to Claudius' fourth wife, the Empress Agrippina, all of which made him one of the most powerful and important men in Rome. Felix himself was connected to the Emperor by marriage; Claudius' maternal grandfather, Marcus Antonius, was also grandfather to Felix's first wife, Drusilla. Thus by descent, or by marriage, they were both grandsons of the great triumvir.





Felix emphasized these connections on his coinage. On one issue, dated year fourteen (54 CE), we find the Empress' name, ΙΟΥΛΙΑ ΑΓΡΙΠΠΙΝΑ (Julia Agrippina), taking pride of place on the obverse, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The Emperor's name, ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟC ΚΛΑΥΔΙΟC ΚΑΙCΑΡ(ΟC) ΓΕΡΜ(ΑΝΙΚΟC) (Tiberius Claudius Caesar Germincus), is found on the reverse with the regnal year (ΛΔ means year 14) and two crossed palms. The emphasis given to Agrippina is no doubt due to her influence in helping Felix to obtain his post (Hendin 116).



*Hendin 116*

The other issue by Felix is a study in tact. Faced with two possible heirs to the throne—Britannicus, Claudius' son by his third wife, Valeria Messalina, and Nero, Agrippina's son by an earlier marriage to L. Domitius Ahenobarbus—Felix discreetly named both on the same coin. On the obverse are two crossed shields with spears, a type with slightly offensive overtones, copied from an imperial denarius honoring the emperor's father, Drusus the Elder (Sear 492).



*Sear 492*



Nero's name, NEPW(NOC) ΚΛΑΥ(ΔΙΟC) ΚΑΙC(AΠOOC) (Nero Claudius Caesar), appears on the obverse, while Britannicus' name BPIT(ANNIKOC) ΚΑΙ(CAΠOOC) (Britannicus Caesar), appears on the reverse with a more traditional palmtree (Hendin 117). Why Nero's name should have taken precedence over Britannicus' may be due to Agrippina's influence. Also, when Nero had come of age, Claudius issued denarii honoring his adopted son as *Princeps Iuventutis* (Prince of Youth), a designation for the heir-apparent (Sear 567). The precedent for this occurred in Augustus' reign, when his grandsons and designated heirs Caius and Lucius Caesar were named *Principes Iuventutis* by the equestrian order after they had assumed their *togae viriles* (togas of manhood). Augustus issued denarii showing their togate figures on the reverse with bucklers and spears (*hasta et clipea*) between them (Sear 368). Thus, the shields and spears on the coins of Felix may also be in reference to this title as the buckler and spear were the official insignia of the *Princeps Iuventutis*. No such coins appeared for Britannicus as he was still under age when Claudius died.

It was well that Felix did not neglect to honor Nero, who soon after became emperor and disposed of the unfortunate Britannicus. As for Felix' governorship, not only the Jews but also the Romans felt that many of the problems in Judaea were due to him personally, for as the historian Tacitus later wrote of him: "... (He) played the tyrant with the cruelty of a slave, plunging into all manner of cruelty and lust ..." (Tacitus, Histories V.9, Penguin Books, 1964). After seven years as procurator, Felix was finally recalled to Rome and replaced by Porcius Festus (59-61 CE), another governor incapable of bringing true peace and prosperity to the province. Festus died after less than two years in office, but not without first issuing another vast quantity of lepta.

The coins issued by Festus in 59 CE show a return to more traditional types (Hendin 118). The obverse carries Nero's name in Greek (NEPONWC) surrounded by a wreath; the reverse has a palm leaf (similar to the barley ear of earlier issues) with the inscription LE KAICAΠOOC (Year 5 of Caesar). The only significance that can be attached to the typology is that perhaps the wreath and palm-leaf refer to some undetermined military victory. It seems that Festus was simply keeping the coin type as inoffensive as possible. The procurators who followed did not issue any coins, so this coin by Festus was the last of the procuratorial lepta of Judaea, thus ending an interesting, though short-lived, series.

## Bibliography

- David Hendin, Guide to Biblical Coins, Amphora Books, 1987.  
 Michael Grant, The Jews in the Roman World, Dorset Press, 1973.  
 Michael Grant, Herod the Great, American Heritage Press, 1971.  
 Tacitus, The Annals of Imperial Rome, Penguin Books, 1956.  
 Seth Stevenson, Dictionary of Roman Coins, Seaby, 1964.  
 David R. Sear, Roman Coins and Their Values, Seaby, 1981.



# The Syngraphics Scene

by Ken Barr

## The \$10 "Educational" Silver Certificate

Most syngraphists (and many other numismatists) are familiar with the Series 1896 Silver Certificates, often referred to as the "educational series" due to their allegorical vignettes. Few, however, are even aware of the proposed larger-denomination notes which were never issued. Fortunately for us, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing retained essays or proofs of many unapproved/unissued designs in their archives, the research of which provided the basis for Gene Hessler's book on "U.S. Essay, Proof and Specimen Notes" (BNR Press, 1980).

Walter Shirlaw is best known to the syngraphic community as the designer of the \$5 educational note, based on his vignette of "Electricity Presenting Light to the World". Apparently the \$600 fee he received for this effort was sufficient to entice him to submit an additional design with a central vignette titled "Agriculture and Forestry" for a proposed \$10 note. After the engraving of the central design by Charles Schlecht and completion of the lettering and border (design by Thomas F. Morris, engraving by George V. Rose, Jr.), this note was unable to pass the proof stage as the enabling act of Congress (August 4, 1886) was never amended to authorize issuance of notes larger than the \$5 denomination.



Collectors of beautiful engravings are very fortunate to have a readily available source of this item through the souvenir card program of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. In 1974, for the 83rd Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association in Bal Harbour, Florida, the Bureau issued a souvenir card reproducing this note. It was effectively the "fourth note in a three-note series" and undoubtedly inspired further research in the Bureau archives that eventually resulted in Gene Hessler's book. For those collectors interested in obtaining a copy of this card, it is SCCS (Souvenir Card Collectors Society) number B 29, listed as "ANA 1974" and retails between \$7 and \$10.



# COINS: THE MIRROR OF LIFE

by Ivan Florine

Since man has been living in society, in order to stay alive he has needed to look to others for goods he could not get by himself. Perhaps he lacked the skills or the time to make the goods, or perhaps the raw materials were scarce or nonexistent in his region.

In order to get the goods he needed, it was necessary to obtain them from somebody who possessed them. At first, this transaction was characterized by "you give me this, I give you that in exchange." This bears the name "barter-trade". Later, the person who wanted something understood that this system of exchange was not always feasible because the person who had the object was not interested in the goods being offered in exchange. It was really impossible for this situation to remain as it was. Hence, an object that was accepted by everybody had to be found. This is why money was created. This evolution can be found in any civilization. Let's study the evolution of the currency in China.



*Western Han Dynasty, 73-48 BC, Æ Wu Chu Coinage*

China was formerly a country consisting mainly of peasants and warriors. The fashion concerning trade was to exchange tools and weapons. But as these objects were not easy to carry, heavy and not divisible into smaller denominations, the Chinese had the idea to use miniatures of these objects to make their exchanges easier. So we can speak about a system of payment or "psuedo-coins". Spade coins, key coins, knife coins and so on were used for more than 850 years. Slowly, the size of these objects was getting smaller and smaller, and, at the end, only a "ring" was left. This "ring" gave birth to the coin. At the beginning, the central hole of the "ring" remained round, but it quickly changed into a square hole. The cash was born! This type of coin lived for nearly 23 centuries. No country but China can boast of having the same design in spite of revolutions, invasions and many other events that occurred during her entire history. Chinese (Han), Mongol, Manchu and other races had no alternative but to adopt the Chinese way of life because that has always been the only way to conquer China!

The cashes bear, generally, on the obverse, four characters: two meaning



*coin* (Pao) and *current* (Tung), and two for the Nien Hao. The Nien Hao is the name that the emperor had during his reign. This is the only indication that we have for attributing a date to a cash because no date given in figures or in letters is provided on the coin itself. The only figures that appeared later on the reverse of the coins indicated its face value. Don't forget that coins are the mirror of life; it also means that if the economy of the country is good, the metallic composition of the coins is also good. The coin had the value of its content (the intrinsic value). But, on the other hand as we shall see later, if the economy is not good, the coins are made out of inferior metal. And at a certain moment, the face value and the intrinsic value differed, so from this moment onward it is necessary to write the face value on the coin itself. Most of the time the face value appears on the reverse of the coin along with the mark of the mint-bureau.

Up to the 1890s, the Chinese cashes were cast, and thereafter they were minted as the results were better. The cash coins with a central square hole disappeared with the Revolution of 1911 in order to mint coins that resembled more the Western style, but this is another story.

Collecting Chinese cashes offers a great pleasure: think that you have in your hands several centuries of history! In the West, you can easily gather a nice collection of Chinese cashes without spending too much. Most of the coins have a value of \$2.50.

Forgeries of these coins exist in smaller quantities in comparison with other coins as most of them are copper or iron rather than precious metals such as platinum, gold or silver.

*Ivan Florine is a numismatic author in Belgium who specializes in Chinese coins.*

*William Mark Simpson designed the  
Norfolk commemorative half-dollar.*

## ROMAN COIN FACTS

**Increase the educational value and enhance the eye appeal of your collection with new laser-printed inserts for your coin holders. Choose among several styles, descriptive information or historical stories. Prices from \$1.50 per coin. Attribution and research available. Write for prices and samples:**

**E. Kondratieff, 3 Somer Ridge Drive #143, Roseville, CA 95661**



# 1989 PCNS LITERARY COMPETITION

The following articles were published during the past year in The Journal and are eligible for the 1989 Literary Award. They will be judged by a committee appointed by the president and the awards will be presented at the June banquet.

<u>Author</u>	<u>Article Title</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
Barr, Ken	*\$10 "Education" Silver Certificate	April 1989
Barr, Ken	*A Chewy Topic	October 1988
Barr, Ken	*An Introduction to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Souvenir Cards	July 1988
Barr, Ken	*The Syngraphist's Library	January 1989
Blacik, Steve	Treating an Addiction	April 1989
Blacik, Steve	The Computer and the Collector	October 1988
Clark, Mark	Holland's Coin-Silver Spoons & Jewelry	July 1988
Clement, Gary L.	The Story of Silver	July 1988
Florine, Ivan	Coins: The Mirror of Life	April 1989
Huston, Stephen M.	*Agrippa and the Curse of Kronos	October 1988
Huston, Stephen M.	*Julian II, The Philosopher	January 1989
Huston, Stephen M.	*Of Murders and Moneyers	July 1988
Huston, Stephen M.	*The Flip Side: Heads Nor Tails	April 1989
Kondratieff, Eric	Coins of the Roman Procurators in Judaea	April 1989
Lange, David W.	*The Bookworm	July 1988
Lange, David W.	*The Bookworm	October 1988
Lange, David W.	*The Bookworm	January 1989
Lange, David W.	*The Bookworm	April 1989
Langton, Roger W.	A New Face on Mexican Coins	April 1989
Luedeking, Alan	The 1/24 and 1/12 Dime Mercado de Leon Coins of Leon, Nicaragua	January 1989
Rockman, Matthew	Coin Production in Ancient Greece	October 1988



15	Saryan, L. A.	Armenian Coins and Armenian History	January 1989
	Schimmel, Jerry F.	*The California Midwinter International Exposition	July 1988
	Schimmel, Jerry F.	*Earthquake McGoon and the Turk Murphy Band	October 1988
	Schimmel, Jerry F.	*The Pan-Pacific International Exposition	January 1989
	Schimmel, Jerry F.	*The Portola Festival Medal	April 1989
7	Seelig, Stephen A.	Luxembourg's First Duke	October 1988
(	Strazzarino, Frank	The 1847 Copper Cent of Hawaii	January 1989

\* regular features

\* \* \*

*This space available  
for your advertisement.*





## From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston

### The Flip Side: Heads Nor Tails

*To err is human, to collect is fun.*

The most common yet impressive of all ancient coinage errors is the brockage. A brockage is a coin struck from one die and one coin which has become stuck in the other die. The impressions are dramatic. One side is an incuse mirror image of the normal design which appears on the other side.

The most common period for brockage coins is the Roman Republic, mainly silver denarius issues of 212–45 BC. Earlier Greek issues provide almost no brockages, and they become increasingly rare again after the beginnings of Roman imperial issues. The explanation for this concentration of brockages in the Roman Republic is quite simple because Republican coinage is distinguished from other ancients by one major difference: Roman Republican coins were made by moneyers motivated by personal profit.

During almost all periods and under most governments, moneyers were employees or slaves of the governing authority. Profits on coinage (seigniorage) went to the rulers. The moneyers were answerable for the quality of their work. They could be in serious trouble if quality was poor, yet they rarely improved their own lot by increasing profits on coinage. The result was fairly tight quality control and a preference to keep trying until they got it right before placing their coins in circulation. Shoddy workmanship might result in death or dismemberment.

The moneyers of the Roman Republic played by a different set of rules. They were appointed or elected to the post of *triumvir*, usually for one year, with authority to convert a certain amount of bullion into coin for the treasury. While some profit from this coinage might be retained by the moneyer, he also bore the expense of production, so efficiency (read *haste*) was profitable. The Roman Senate viewed the production of an adequate amount of coinage of proper weight to be sufficient evidence that the moneyer had done his job.

This set of circumstances caused the moneyers to produce coins as fast as possible, the only quality controls of concern being weight and fineness. Centering, sharpness of detail, artistic quality, and proper striking were largely inconsequential. The faster coins were made, the more profit or less expense for the moneyer. The result: brockages all over the place—they are known from virtually every *triumvir* for 150 years! In other times and places, these coins would have been thrown back in the melting pot. Mass production took one of its earliest tolls on quality in the early Roman coinage.

While brockages of the Republic's coins are the most common, brockages of other early coinages are scarce to rare. Few coins of this type are offered in the marketplace because, while the collectors of these errors are few in number, some of them are dealers in ancient coins!

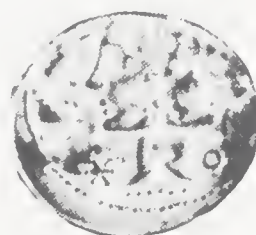




*Ancient Judaea, early 1st Century BCE, A Prutah  
Pomegranate between cornucopiae within wreath*



*Roman Republic, 148-136 BC, AR Denarius  
Head of Roma with X (ten for the denomination) to right*



*Roman Republic, AR Denarius of the moneyer C. Fonteius, 114-113 BC  
Janiform head of the Dioscuri (Crawford 290/1)*



*Decentius, Roman Usurper in Gaul, A Centenionalis of 351-353 AD  
Portrait of Decentius cuirassed, name around*



*Byzantine Emperors Constantine V and Leo IV  
A Follis with portraits struck 751-775 AD*

*From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston is a regular column of The Journal which focuses on ancient and medieval times.*



# TREATING AN ADDICTION

by Steve Black

There is little difference between the classic addict and the novice coin collector who is impatient to get on with his collection to the extent that he is overacquiring and losing his appreciation of a single acquisition. Time is the most certain healer of this addiction. But there are also simple steps that the addicted collector and his family can follow.

As with any addiction, knowledge and admission of the problem are prerequisites for a cure. Once the addicted collector has admitted his problem, he can get on with a cure.

What are the signs of an addiction? There are generally five:

- Dollars expended on coin acquisitions take a large leap upward and plateau at a dangerously high level;
- Time spent on coin acquisitions takes a large leap upward and plateaus at a dangerously high level;
- Marked inability to concentrate on an activity not associated with coin collecting;
- The stated idea of starting a business built around coin collecting;
- Acquisition for the sake of acquisition; that is, the collector does not spend any time with his coins, including his new acquisitions--all time is spent with price lists and at shows where more acquisitions occur.

Some things the addict can try involve substitution for the object of his addiction. For example, the confirmed smoker may begin by chewing gum to break his nicotine addiction. By the same token, the addicted coin collector can turn his attention to other facets of the numismatics field and, at least partially, away from acquisition. An area that has satisfied many collectors is that of reading about coins. There have been many very interesting books and articles written in numismatics; public libraries offer some, and local coin clubs will have others.

Other coin collectors work on displays and exhibits for their coins. When they have an attractive display, they will often offer to exhibit it at a school or other gathering. This provides valuable education to the public about coin collecting and the important history of coinage in the United States and is also an effective outlet for the addicted collector to exercise his fascination with the hobby without opening his wallet.

A final tip allows the collector to acquire but with little financial investment. The classified sections of the many newspapers and magazines on coin collecting often contain dealer advertisements for come-on offers. That is, they will offer a coin or set of coins for a nominal price just to get collectors to write to



them; they then add those collectors to their mailing lists and hope for additional sales. The most typical such teaser advertisement would offer, for instance, 5 Indian head cents (dealer's choice of dates) for \$2.00. All the addict has to do is send in two dollars with a brief note, and the dealer will provide 5 Indian heads. This is an inexpensive way to stay active with the hobby. One point to be emphasized is that, even though the wording of the advertisement states "dealer's choice of dates," the dates sought should be specified. Many dealers will attempt to oblige (assuming key dates are not requested) in an effort to obtain future business. When the coins come, enjoy them--but throw away the accompanying price list, as that would only be additional fuel for the addiction.

A variant of the above method to acquire coins with minimal investment is the acquisition of coins through no investment. Many dealers offer a free coin, collectors' aid, or some form of scrip that can be redeemed later for coins or aids. Watch these dealers' operations closely, as it may be possible to acquire the free item and then return the coins ordered for a refund. In the case of scrip bonuses for a purchase, the scrip can be accumulated and then cashed in for free coins and collectors' aids. This can be an interesting--although slow and somewhat difficult (who wants to return coins?)--way to acquire coins for "free."



Addictions need to be understood and treated. The addicted person needs support of significant others. The addict who attempts to go it alone is guaranteed to fail. If you ever meet any of the conditions listed above, seek help soon, whether that help be from a significant other or from a professional. Do not let it go on too long. Do not pretend that it cannot happen to you. Do not act as if it is a passing fancy. It is an addiction, and it has happened to thousands of well-meaning collectors. Recognize your problem, seek help, act to stabilize your situation, substitute something else for that to which you are addicted.

Coin collecting is a wonderful hobby in moderation. It can be dangerous to yourself and others when taken to extremes.

\* \* \*

*United States proof sets were offered in 1937 for \$1.89,  
including postage.*



## THE SOCIETY OF PRIVATE AND PIONEER NUMISMATICS

Collectors of territorial gold and California small-denomination gold coins and tokens are invited to join a new, collector-oriented organization, The Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics (SPPN). The society welcomes collectors whose interests range from the private gold coinage of the western states to the issues of Templeton Reid and the Bechtler family of Georgia and North Carolina. In addition, California fractional gold coins and related tokens, the Alaska pinch series, and the private gold exposition coins are related areas of private gold included in the scope of the society. Anyone interested in western banking and mining history and private scrip is also welcome to join the SPPN.



*1860 \$20- Gold Pattern Struck in Copper*

The society newsletter, The Brasher Bulletin, and the general membership meetings at major coin shows provide forums for the exchange of information of value to the specialized collector, the numismatic researcher, and the novice collector. Articles will appear on newly discovered varieties, famous collectors and their collections, rarity ratings, condition census information and other noteworthy topics.

Membership information is available from Dave Showers, SPPN Membership, P.O. Box 4423, Davis, CA 95617-4423.

★

*Photo by Stephen M. Huston of specimen in the collection of David F. Cieniewicz.*

*The first private coiner of gold in Sacramento during  
the Gold Rush was J. S. Ormsby & Company.*



## SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS TOKENS

### *The Portola Festival Medal*

by Jerry F. Schimmel

In order to generate interest in the Panama-Pacific Exposition which had been projected for 1915, the Portola Festival was organized in October 1909, just three years after the earthquake. The theme was to be the discoverer of San Francisco Bay, Don Gaspar de Portola. Foreign governments were contacted and actors imported to play significant parts in short plays and parades which were to be given around the city during the five days of the event. Schools, community organizations and businesses became involved even while major parts of the city remained in ruins from the 1906 disaster.



The medal shown states "Official Souvenir, Portola Festival, S.F. Cal. Oct 19-23, 1909" on the obverse. On the reverse it reads "Discovery of Bay of San Francisco by Gaspar de Portola, Jan. 9, 1769. First Governor of California." The medal is gilt bronze, 38mm, and shows a California brown bear and Portola looking at the sunset. This piece was one of a number of souvenirs produced at the time. A second, but smaller, festival was held in 1913.

Source: *The Story of the Exposition* by Frank M. Todd, 1921.



**CALVIN J. ROGERS**

*Classical Numismatics*

Write for our fully-illustrated catalogs of Ancient and Medieval Coins

Calvin J. Rogers  
Jeanette Rogers  
ANS SAN ANA

P.O. Box 7233  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
(415) 369-1508



# ANCIENT and MEDIEVAL COINS



*Fixed Price and Auction Catalogues*



*Every coin illustrated in the full page plates.*

Lists issued monthly. Write for free sample lists:

**STEPHEN M. HUSTON**  
*Classical Numismatist*

P.O. Box 3621  
San Francisco, CA 94119  
(415) 781-7580

Office: 582 Market Street, Suite 1011, San Francisco  
Weekdays by Appointment.

Coin Photography    Appraisals    Authentication